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June 25, 2001



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/769,420; filed January 26, 2001
For: **Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof**
Inventors: Cai *et al.*
Our Ref: 1735.0440001/RWE/BEC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. Form PTO-1449 (8 sheets) and accompanying (28) references; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
June 25, 2001
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Bruce E. Chalker

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BEC/dab

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Enclosures